

Remarks

Claims 1 through 9, 13 and 14 are pending in the instant application. By way of the present amendment new claim 48 has been added for consideration in connection with this case.

Claims 1 through 9, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schrenk et al. ('949). Applicants wish to thank Examiner Shafer for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative at the interview of November 16, 2000, in connection with this case. As discussed at the interview, Applicants traverse the rejection for the reasons provided below.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention recites an absorbing polarizer element that transmits light of one polarization state and absorbs light of a different polarization state. In contrast, the absorbing element of Schrenk does not distinguish between polarization states with respect to absorption. In particular, for a particular wavelength of interest, the absorbing element of Schrenk would absorb equally each polarization state. In other words, the absorbing element of Schrenk is a typical color filter which does not have polarization dependent properties.

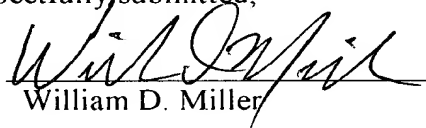
New claim 48 has been submitted to recite the features of the present invention with greater particularity. It is noted that claim 48 recites an absorbing polarizer that absorbs "light of the first polarization state to a greater extent than light of the second polarization state." It is respectfully submitted that Schrenk neither teaches nor suggests such a feature.

In view of the above, as well as the reasons provided with the preliminary amendment filed June 20, 2000, it is respectfully submitted that all claims in the present application are patentable over the Schrenk reference and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested and an indication of allowance is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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